

For more information, go to our website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants>) or e-mail us ([olivia\\_kwong@blm.gov](mailto:olivia_kwong@blm.gov)).

1849 C St. NW • LSB-204 • Washington, DC 20240

Plant Conservation Alliance



The Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group Presents...

# Weeds Gone Wild

## 2001 Calendar


Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

# December 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

30	23	16	9	2	
31	24	17	10	3	
November 25 4 26 5 27 6 28 7 29 8 30 9 31 10 December 1 11 2 12 3 13 4 14 5 15 6 16 7 17 8 18 9 19 10 20 11 21 12 22 13 23 14 24 15 25 16 26 17 27 18 28 19 29 20 30 21 31	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29
		19	12	5	
		20	13	6	
		21	14	7	
		22	15	8	
		23	16	9	
		24	17	10	
		25	18	11	
		26	19	12	
		27	20	21	22
		28	21	22	23
		29	22	23	24
		30	23	24	25
		31	24	25	26
January 6 1 7 2 8 3 9 4 10 5 11 6 12 7 13 8 14 9 15 10 16 11 17 12 18 13 19 14 20 15 21 16 22 17 23 18 24 19 25 20 26 21 27 22 28 23 29 24 30 25 31 26	28	29			



## Plant Conservation Alliance

The **Plant Conservation Alliance (PCA)** is a consortium of federal government Member agencies and non-federal Cooperators representing various disciplines within the conservation field: biologists, botanists, habitat preservationists, horticulturists, resources management consultants, soil scientists, special interest clubs, non-profit organizations, concerned citizens, nature lovers, and gardeners. Since 1994, PCA has worked collectively to solve the problems of native plant extinction and native habitat restoration, ensuring the preservation of our ecosystem. Federal plant conservation resources are pooled at the national level to provide a focused, strategic approach to plant conservation at the local level on public and private lands, eliminating duplication of effort and increasing the effectiveness of these programs.

Each year, PCA awards thousands of dollars for on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects through a matching funds grant program administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. However, native plant conservation does not consist of funding alone; as a public-private partnership, PCA also serves as a forum for the exchange of ideas, expertise and information between public and private organizations engaged in habitat restoration and preservation. These exchanges take place in various forms of public outreach, including e-mail lists, website, newsletter, and meetings. Committees include the Alien Plant, Medicinal Plant, Pollinator, Public Outreach, and Restoration Working Groups. Using these efforts, PCA strives to achieve its mission:

***"To protect native plants by ensuring that native plant communities and their populations are maintained, enhanced, and restored."***

*For more information, go to our website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants>) or e-mail us ([olivia\\_kwong@blm.gov](mailto:olivia_kwong@blm.gov)).*

## Russian-Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

is an aggressive shrub that can grow to 30 feet in height. Its stems, buds, and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales. It invades fields and other sunny habitats in the central United States where it



Branch showing flowers.

displaces native vegetation, reduces bird diversity, taxes water reserves, and interferes with plant succession and nutrient cycling. It was widely planted for wildlife habitat.



Russian-olive infestation in Greybull, Wyoming.

Photos by John M. Randall

## What are “Weeds Gone Wild”?

**Weeds Gone Wild** are plants introduced into new areas outside their native ranges that have become invasive in natural habitats. Introduced plants are also referred to as *alien*, *exotic*, *non-native*, and *non-indigenous*. Native plants occur in a particular habitat and ecosystem as a result of natural forces, excluding human activities. Invasive plants crowd out native species when introduced to new habitats. They reproduce and spread rapidly because they lack the natural controls present in their native lands.

For more information on the identification and management of invasive plants affecting natural areas, including fact sheets for all of the species highlighted in this calendar, take a look at our website (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>).

**Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas** is a web-based project of the Alien Plant Working Group that provides information for the general public, land managers, researchers, and others on the serious threat and impacts of invasive alien plants to the native flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems of the United States. The site provides:

- An invasive plant list for the United States
- Background on the problem including terminology
- Illustrated fact sheets with control options
- Invasive species internet links
- And much more!

The Alien Plant Working Group provides public education, invasive plant management advice, networking, regional support, and policy guidance. For more details, please refer to the group’s “Action Agenda for Invasive Plants” available on the website.

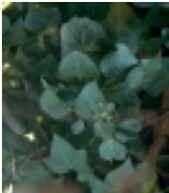
Invasive plant meetings, workshops, and other events are provided on the Weeds Gone Wild online calendar ([http://www.eventcal.net/weeds\\_gone\\_wild](http://www.eventcal.net/weeds_gone_wild)). If you have an important invasive plant meeting, training, workshop or other event you’d like included on this calendar, please send an email to the Alien Plant Working Group Chairperson, [jil\\_swearingen@nps.gov](mailto:jil_swearingen@nps.gov).

# November 2001


<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

25	26	27	28	29	30
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Day	23
11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16
4	5	6	7	8	9
				1	2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31

W e e d s   G o n e   W i l d :   A l i e n   P l a n t   I n v a d e r s   o f   N a t u r a l   A r e a s



**English ivy** (*Hedera helix*) is an evergreen climbing vine, which invades forests throughout the United States, smothering and displacing ground vegetation. Growing as thick as a foot in diameter, it climbs trees - weakening and killing them. English ivy has many recognized leaf shapes, from a 3-lobed leaf with a heart-shaped base to an unlobed oval with a wedge-shaped base.



English ivy growing up a tree trunk.

Photos by Jill M. Swearingen

**Giant Reed** (*Arundo donax*) invades wetlands and stream channels in the west and elsewhere. It displaces native vegetation, degrades wildlife habitat, and interferes with flood control. It can grow to over 20 feet in height, outcompeting and suppressing natives. Giant reed spreads vegetatively with root and plant fragments floating downstream to start new infestations. It tolerates a wide variety of conditions, including high salinity. It ignites easily and can create intense fires.



Giant reed dominating floodplain of Santa Margarita, Camp Pendleton, CA.

Photos by John M. Randall

January 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

	1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
		December 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			February 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	

S M T W T F S



<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

28	21	14	7	1
29	22	15	8 Columbus Day	2
30	23	16	9	3
31	24	17	10	4
	25	18	11	5
	26	19	12	6
	27	20	13	

Photos by John M. Randall

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

S F T W T W S



**Japanese Stilt Grass** (*Microstegium vimineum*) is an annual, shade-tolerant grass that invades forests, wetlands, roadsides and other habitats in the eastern United States. It is often associated with disturbance events, including those caused by heavy white-tailed deer and vehicle traffic. Introduced around 1919, it may have accidentally escaped from its use as a packing material for porcelain.



Photos by Ted Scott (top) and Jil M. Swearingen (bottom)

# February 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 <small>George Washington's Birthday</small>	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28			
January 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				March 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		

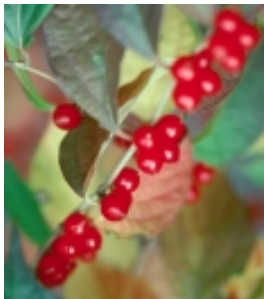
S M T W T F S

# September 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

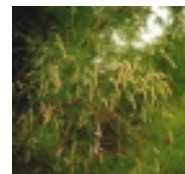
30						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
2	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
						1
<div> <div>August</div> <div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> <div>26</div> <div>27</div> <div>28</div> <div>29</div> <div>30</div> <div>31</div> </div> </div>						
<div> <div>October</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>2</div> <div>3</div> <div>4</div> <div>5</div> <div>6</div> <div>7</div> <div>8</div> <div>9</div> <div>10</div> <div>11</div> <div>12</div> <div>13</div> <div>14</div> <div>15</div> <div>16</div> <div>17</div> <div>18</div> <div>19</div> <div>20</div> <div>21</div> <div>22</div> <div>23</div> <div>24</div> <div>25</div> <div>26</div> <div>27</div> <div>28</div> <div>29</div> <div>30</div> <div>31</div> </div> </div>						

**Exotic Bush Honeyuckles** (*Lonicera* species & cultivars) are upright shrubs which invade forests, fields and other habitats in central and eastern United States. Escaping from ornamental plantings, the shrubs form dense stands that shade out and displace native species in natural areas. They deplete soil moisture and nutrients. Flower color varies from creamy white to pink or crimson and fruits are red to orange.





**Salt Cedars** (*Tamarix* species) are fire-adapted species that invade riparian habitats in the Southwest. It disrupts the structure and



stability of native plant communities and degrades native wildlife habitat by outcompeting and replacing native plants, monopolizing

limited sources of water, and increasing the frequency, intensity and effect of fires and floods. It was introduced to as an ornamental shrub in the early 1800's.



Photos by Jil M. Swearingen (left & upper right) and Ray Carruthers (bottom right)

March 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
February 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28					April 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

S M T W T F S

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

S F T W T W S

[illegible]

floodplains and other moist habitats in the eastern United States. After spending the first half of its two-year life cycle as a rosette of leaves, mature plants with triangular to heart-shaped, coarsely toothed leaves flower in the spring with four white petals in the shape of a cross. A single plant can produce thousands of seeds.

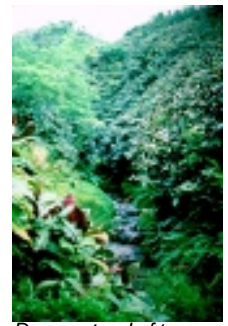


First year basal rosettes.



Photos by Jill M. Swearingen

**Velvet Tree** (*Miconia calvescens*) is an evergreen tree which invades neotropical forest ecosystems in Hawaii. Each tree can produce an estimated 3 million seeds several times each year. Growing to about 50 feet when mature, it forms thick stands which create a dense canopy of shade that native plants cannot tolerate, but its own seedlings can. Its shallow root system leads to dramatic and destructive soil erosion. It was brought to Hawaii in 1960 as an ornamental plant.



Dense stand of trees.



Photos courtesy of the Hawaiian Ecosystems at Risk Program (<http://www.hear.org>)

April 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					
		March 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			May 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas

invades native sawgrass prairies, wet prairies, and other plant communities in Florida, including millions of acres of the unique Florida Everglades ecosystem. It



Photos by John M. Randall



**Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*) invades moist habitats, such as freshwater wetlands, ditches, and ponds. It displaces vegetation and degrades wildlife habitat by forming dense, homogeneous stands. A single mature plant may have as many as thirty flowering stems and is capable of producing an estimated 2-3 million tiny seeds a year. Biological control using introduced beetles is helping to reduce the vast stands of this plant in northern states.



*Hylobius transversovittatus*



Photos by Cornell University (left) and Jil M. Swearingen (right)

# May 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29	30	31		
		April 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30			June 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	

S M T W T F S



# June 2001

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>

24	25	26	27	28	29
17	18	19	20	21	22
10	11	12	13	14	15
3	4	5	6	7	8
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27
					28
					29
					30
					31
					1
					2
					3
					4
					5
					6
					7
					8
					9
					10
					11
					12
					13
					14
					15
					16
					17
					18
					19
					20
					21
					22
					23
					24
					25
					26
					27</